

ALFalfa Club

CIA: Helms, Richard

U.S. Justice Is Elected by Alfalfa Club

Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart has been elected president of the Alfalfa Club, which annually "nominates" a candidate for president of the United States.

Justice Stewart succeeds Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, former supreme allied commander in Europe and a past president of the American Red Cross.

Other officers elected were William P. Rogers, secretary of state, first vice president; Col. Frank Borman, commander of Apollo 8, second vice president; retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert L. Walsh, secretary; and Dr. Thomas W. McKnew, advisory chairman of the National Geographic Society, treasurer.

New members inducted were Harry F. Byrd III, son of the senator; W. Graham Clayton Jr., president of Southern Railway System; John Connally, treasury secretary; Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr., R-Calif.; Richard Helms, head of the Central Intelligence Agency; retired Air Force Gen. Emmett O'Donnell Jr, USO president; California Gov. Ronald Reagan; and Lewis F. Powell Jr., recently confirmed as a Supreme Court justice. ✓

JAN 21 1968

ABSENT SPELLBINDER**Dirksen Nominated by Alfalfa Club**

Sen. Everett M. Dirksen, absent from view but spellbinding in his acceptance message, last night became the Alfalfa Club's candidate for President of the United States.

Flu confined him to Walter Reed Hospital during the dining club's mock political convention and 55th annual banquet attended by 600 Alfalfans and guests at the Statler Hilton.

But the Illinois Republican sent his acceptance speech, composed at the hospital for delivery by his son-in-law, Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn.

He'll launch his campaign, said the candidate noted as a television personality, columnist, orator and recording star as well as a lawmaker, by doing a new album or two, the first to be called "When It's Moonlight on the Pedernales."

Off-Year Nominations

The Alfalfa Club, in fun, chooses a White House candidate in off years as well as in election years.

Dirksen, nominated in absentia by former Sen. Barry Goldwater, offered the club some sure-fire campaign gimmicks, including "square money."

If, he explained, the nation's coins are reminded with square corners, they'll be useless in the



NEIL H. McELROY
New Club President

vending machines. Rebuilding all the coin devices, then, "will not only soak up all the jobless; we will have so many jobs to give out that it will be impossible to find enough people to fill them. This is one way for all of us to go to hell quickly and together."

"There will be none of this dampening down of travel or of putting a head tax on those who want to sojourn abroad," Dirksen said. "Every Democrat and Republican voter who wishes to

go abroad and who promises not to return until after election day should have a handout from the Treasury for his traveling expenses. They should also have to promise not to vote an absentee ballot. It means a clean sweep for the Alfalfa ticket, and I mean clean.

Cabinet Appointments

In club tradition, Dirksen announced plans for appointments to his cabinet, including:

For secretary of health, education, and welfare, Senator J. William Fulbright: "Bill can work out a program so we can bring all the Viet Cong over to this country as exchange students. Automatically the war will come to an end."

For secretary of labor, Shirley Temple: "This way we can have the Ev and Shirley show."

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Chief Justice Earl Warren, both members of Alfalfa, were present. Guests included astronauts Walter M. Schirra and Frank Borman, and space veteran M. Scott Carpenter, now assigned to a Navy underseas project.

Neil H. McElroy, chairman of the board of Procter & Gamble and former secretary of defense, succeeded Clark Clifford, the new secretary of defense, as the Alfalfa Club's president for 1968.

Fun in Several Directions

Clifford, following club ritual, poked fun in several directions including politics: "The Republican Party is torn with dissension right now and must face up to its major problem—who will be selected to be the stop-Stassen candidate!"

McElroy, acknowledging Clifford's deprecating introduction, said "I haven't heard anything so moving since General Motors' testimonial dinner to Ralph Nader."

Of his government career, he recalled, "I was sworn in as secretary of defense the day after the Russians launched Sputnik. If I had read the papers that morning, I would have stayed in the soap business. As it turned out, however, those years in the Pentagon were the most enjoyable eons of my life. And I have always wanted gray hair."

McElroy observed that only George Romney "has openly challenged LBJ for the presidency your lunch with a polar bear."

New Members Initiated

Benjamin M. McKelway, editorial chairman of The Evening Star, initiated Alfalfa's 1968 members: Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky; Lorimer A. Davidson, chairman of the board of Government Employees Companies; F. Elwood Davis, attorney of Washington; Lee M. Folger, vice president of Folger, Nolan, Fleming & Co.; Gilbert M. Grosvenor, vice president and associate editor of National Geographic; Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chief of naval operations and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Robert D. Murphy, president of Corning Glass International; Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois; and John F. Watlington, Jr., president of Wachovia National Bank and Trust Co., Winston-Salem, N.C. A tenth new member, McGeorge Bundy, president of Ford Foundation, could not attend.

In addition to McElroy, the

Alfalfa Club's 1968 officers are: Admiral Jerauld Wright, first vice president; Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia, second vice president; Dr. Thomas W. McKnew, advisory chairman of the National Geographic Society board of trustees, treasurer; and Maj. Gen. Robert L. Walsh, secretary.

Alfalfa's 55th evening of hijinks concluded with the appearance of comedian Jimmy Durante. He performed through the auspices of ASCAP.

Dinner chairman was William T. Bell, associate secretary of the National Geographic Society. The United States Marine Band furnished music.

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